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TENBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1953

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

1953

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

<i>Name of Parishes.</i>					<i>Councillors.</i>
BAYTON	...	...	...	...	E. EVANS.
BOCKLETON		...	...	...	MISS PRESCOTT.
EASTHAM	...	...	...	...	K. D. BRIGGS.
HANLEY	...	...	...	...	P. KERBY.
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME			...	...	J. BATLEY. CANON A. P. RANDLE.
KYRE	...	...	...	...	H. BROOKES.
LINDRIDGE	...	...	...	...	COL. E. G. WALLACE. C. H. C. PARTRIDGE.
MAMBLE	...	...	...	...	B. DAVIES.
PENSAX	...	...	...	...	W. G. ABRAHAM.
ROCHFORD	...	...	...	...	W. G. MAUND (Chairman).
STANFORD WITH ORLETON				...	W. MORRIS.
STOCKTON	...	...	...	...	CAPT. A. ASTLEY-JONES.
STOKE BLISS	...	...	...	...	A. LAWRENCE.
TENBURY	...	...	...	...	G. E. T. H. MAUND. V. MOORE, Sen. V. MOORE, Jun. H. JONES. DR. J. E. B. WILLIAMS.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
SURVEYOR, SANITARY INSPECTOR, WATERWORKS ENGINEER	J. E. PARKINSON, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.
LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1953.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,250
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1953							5,330
Number of houses inhabited at the end of 1953	...	...	...				1,773
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£19,011
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£75 13 8

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises fourteen parishes, and is entirely rural in character, except for the market town of Tenbury. Agriculture, including fruit and hop growing, is the chief industry and provides work for the majority of the adult male population.

During the autumn months the population is increased by fruit and hop-pickers, mostly women and children, who are brought into the district and accommodated in special quarters on the farms.

There are many small holdings in the area, and the amount of unemployment varies very little.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total 1953	Total 1952
Legitimate	45	31	76	74
Illegitimate	3	5	8	2
Total	48	36	84	76
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			15.8	14.3
Birth rate for England and Wales			15.5	15.3

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	2	3	5	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)			56.2	25.6

DEATHS

	32	28	60	51
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			11.3	9.6
Death rate for England and Wales			11.4	11.3

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other puerperal Causes	0	0

INFANT MORTALITY

Under one year of age

1	0	1	1
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DEATH RATE OF INFANTS

Under one year of age

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	11.9	13.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	13.2	13.5
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	26.8	27.6

	Total 1953	Total 1952
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATH

Reference No.	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	0
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	0	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	8
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	7	2
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	0
20. Other Heart Disease	5	10
21. Other Circulatory Disease	2	1
22. Influenza	1	1
23. Pneumonia	1	1
24. Bronchitis	4	1
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	1	0
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1
34. All other Accidents	1	0
	32	28

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES in the AREA

In carrying out my duties as Medical Officer of Health of the area I have the assistance and co-operation of Mr. J. E. Parkinson, who has been Sanitary Inspector of the area since May, 1932, and who is also Building Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer for the area.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Worcester County Council as "Local Health Authority." The ambulance is stationed at Tenbury.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The County Council Laboratory of Worcester undertakes the examination of producer samples of food, milk and water. The remaining bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

HOSPITALS

The Tenbury Hospital is quite close to the town, and though, being on the other side of the river, it is actually in Burford, Salop, it receives cases chiefly from the town and district of Tenbury.

The Hospital has fifteen beds for medical and surgical cases, and one cot, and is very well equipped.

For Infectious Diseases the Worcester Isolation Hospital is chiefly used and Hayley Green Isolation Hospital is available.

The Blakebrook Hospital at Kidderminster is also available, and for Maternity cases accommodation is provided in three Maternity Hospitals.

All hospitals are the responsibility of the Midland Regional Hospital Board.

TUBERCULOSIS

Dispensary and Sanatorium treatment is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. The nearest hospital dispensaries are Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester. There are sanatoria at Knightwick and St. Wulstans, Malvern.

The Local Health Authority are responsible for prevention and after-care and the administration is undertaken by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Treatment and supervision is arranged at the nearest hospital centre, i.e. Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester Royal Infirmary.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also act as Midwives and carry out the duties of Health Visitors.

Two of these Nurses live at Tenbury Hospital, the other two residing in outlying parishes, and their work is so apportioned as to cover the entire area.

The administration of this service is the responsibility of the Local Health Authority.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

WATER

Regular samples of the supply to the town of Tenbury have been taken and have proved satisfactory on analysis. The quantity is variable and requires to be augmented at times from the Elan Aqueduct.

The water is not plumbo solvent, but has an aggressive action on zinc and wrought iron, requiring the use of lead or copper piping. (See full report by Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer).

Many of the wells and springs and small private piped supplies have proved unsatisfactory on analysis. The consumers are advised what action to take according to the individual circumstances.

Further complaints led to a full investigation of the Colliers Hill Supply to Bayton Village.

This water has proved unsatisfactory and subject to gross contamination at intervals. Boiling all drinking water was advised until further notice. As a result of this situation and the dubious state of water supplies in the rural area generally, the Council were strongly advised that their proposed water scheme under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act was the only practicable solution to the problem.

Unfortunately no progress can be reported under this scheme.

Number of houses supplied from Public Mains :

Parish.	No. of houses supplied from Stand-pipe Taps.	No. of houses supplied direct from Mains.
TENBURY	Nil	660
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME	Nil	Nil
LINDRIDGE	Nil	Nil
MAMBLE	Nil	Nil
PENSAX	Nil	Nil
BAYTON	Nil	Nil
STOCKTON	Nil	Nil
STANFORD	Nil	Nil
EASTHAM	Nil	Nil
HANLEY	Nil	Nil
ROCHFORD	Nil	Nil
KYRE	Nil	Nil
STOKE BLISS	Nil	Nil
BOCKLETON	Nil	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

1. Tenbury Town

The conditions described in my last Report still remain unchanged. A scheme for the provision of new sewers and outfall works has not yet been received and considered by the Council—a most unsatisfactory position for a town of this size. The Consulting Engineer should be pressed to produce the scheme at an early date.

2. Rural District

Conditions are generally unchanged from previous reports except for the completion of small disposal plants to serve Council houses at Newnham Bridge and Rochford.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The only serious pollution known to be occurring is that of the River Teme and Kyre Brook at Tenbury, which receive untreated sewage from the town.

SCHOOLS

Some further re-decoration has been undertaken during the year, but no major improvements to sanitary facilities. It is regretted that improvements in the facilities at Bayton and Eastham have not yet been effected. A classroom has been added to Tenbury Senior, electric lighting installed at Knighton-on-Teme and some improvement to water storage and distribution at Pensax.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

Six new Council Houses at Newnham Bridge and thirteen at Kyreside, Bromyard Road, Tenbury, were completed during the year.

Council Houses nearing completion or in course of erection at the end of the year were as follows :—

Four at Kyreside, Bromyard Road, six at Rochford and eight at Mamble.

Two private enterprise houses were completed during the year.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk Supply.
2. Meat and other foods.

See report of Sanitary Inspector.

No outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during the year, but an isolated case was notified.

SECTION F.
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
DISEASES

NOTIFICATIONS

During the year I have received notifications of the following cases :

					Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	2	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	3	Nil	Nil
Measles	...	...	...	...	24	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	4	4	Nil

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The importance of immunisation against diphtheria in infancy and the need for a reinforcing dose on reaching school age has been explained to parents. Immunisation is carried out at each session in the Welfare Centre and during my visits to the schools.

Number of children under 5 who received Primary Courses	...	...	48
Number of children over 5 who received Primary Courses	...	...	6
Number of children who received Reinforcing doses	...	...	56

Four cases of diphtheria occurred during the year in a hospital school, but all were so slight as to raise doubt as to the virulence of the organism. Full precautions were taken and every child reimmunised.

TUBERCULOSIS

Five cases were notified during the year.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1953

		NEW CASES.						DEATHS.			
Age		Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Period		M.	F.	...	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0
1	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0
5	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0
10	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0
15	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0
25	...	0	1	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0
35	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0
45	...	0	1	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0
55	...	1	0	...	0	0	...	1	0	...	0
65	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0
		1	2	...	0	0	...	1	0	...	0

No action was necessary, under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There were in the register at the end of the year the following cases of Tuberculosis :

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
13	10	4	6

CONCLUSION

The most urgent problems before the Council are the provision of a safe piped supply of water in the rural parishes of the district and the installing of suitable sewage outfall works for the town of Tenbury.

I wish to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1953.

WATER SUPPLIES (Generally)

Except for the small town of Tenbury, there is no properly organised system of water supply.

About 70% of the population of the Tenbury Rural District are without a piped supply of wholesome water as supplied by statutory undertakers, and the need for pure water for drinking and domestic purposes is great, as in the majority of cases the mode of supply is by small springs or shallow wells of which it is certain that a large proportion, to a greater or lesser degree, are polluted and many are liable to pollution or failure or both. There are in the district a few small private piped supplies.

Some of the groups of houses erected by the Council in the thinly populated rural parishes are supplied by shallow wells; others from boreholes varying in depths from 80 feet to 250 feet.

TENBURY TOWN SUPPLY

The town of Tenbury enjoys a constant supply of water from the Council's mains at good pressures. The source of this supply is water from the Millstone Grit formations in the Cleve Hills, Shropshire, some five miles to the north. The water is chambered at its point of issue in the foothills in the Shropshire parish of Coreley and after passing through a small Aeration Chamber is carried by a gravity main to an 80,000 gallons underground service reservoir situated about one mile to the north of the town. The static head over the area of supply at ground level ranges from 200 feet to 50 feet.

Supplies at Kyrewood and Oldwood are unsatisfactory. Both these districts are on outer legs of the distribution system and are affected by altitude and draw-off in the intervening low level town area.

At a Meeting of the Water Committee in September, I was requested to make a report upon the position generally regarding Tenbury Water Supply.

In presenting my report at the October Meeting, I made reference to the consulting engineer's report of 1950 when recommendations that certain lengths of the gravity main between the source and reservoir be duplicated were agreed and accepted.

Regarding the unsatisfactory position at Oldwood, I reported upon the several methods by which improvement could be effected:

1. Booster.
2. Water Tower (Balancing Tank).
3. Boring at Oldwood and pumping to a small water tower sited on the highest ground in the area and feeding back into existing mains.

Outline schemes were prepared and approximate estimates obtained which were presented at the November Meeting of the Committee.

The town supply was affected in February by a complete fracture of the incoming 5in. trunk main at a point where it crosses the Worcester Road near the Swan Hotel. For three days the defect defied location, the escaping water percolating away underground in the gravel subsoil.

At the end of the year the rate of intake from the Springs at the source had fallen off considerably and it was necessary to use more of the supplementary supply from the Birmingham Aqueduct.

BAYTON WATER SUPPLY

Of the small private piped systems, the one supplying the small village in the parish of Bayton calls for special mention.

The source of this supply is water which seeps from the base of an eminence surmounting high ground about a half mile away to the east of the Village. The ground in the collecting area resembles a bog from which water is collected into and carried to underground storage tanks by a system of loosely jointed and unjointed stoneware and earthenware pipes laid in the subsoil. The supply is polluted and consumers have been warned and advised to boil all water intended for domestic use.

Although it is hoped and expected that the Council's Scheme Part I to provide a public piped supply in this and other parishes will soon materialise, it has become a matter of urgency that something in the meantime be done to remedy or at least mitigate the trouble in Bayton.

TENBURY TOWN WATER—ANALYSES

Copies of two samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year are as follows :—

23th March, 1953.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days.

37°C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.

24th August, 1953.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days.

37°C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

Seventeen samples of water were taken from private supplies during the year. In those cases where defective qualities were found, appropriate action was taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There is still a large number of Pail Closets in the virtually urban area of the township of Tenbury which require collection for disposal by the Council's refuse collection staff. It becomes increasingly difficult to obtain labour for this kind of work.

Consideration has been given to the need for converting these pail closets but immediate or early action is difficult if not impossible. The problem is bound up with :—

1. The low standard generally of accommodation and disrepair of the houses concerned.
2. The impropriety of requiring conversion whilst unable to secure total or reasonable fitness of the houses.
3. The present difficulty (owing to high cost of repairs and low rent incomes), of exercising powers and duties under the Housing Acts to secure reasonable fitness.
4. The number of occupied houses with pail closets which are under Clearance Orders and a probable further number which may soon be regarded as totally unfit.
5. In any case, the need for improvement to the sewerage system and provision of outfall works.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

Collections are made once every three weeks in the Rural parishes of the district. In the township of Tenbury a weekly collection is made. Disposal is by tipping into an old gravel quarry at Kyrewood.

Some inconvenience is experienced by having only one tipping site, but such sites in this district of rich agricultural land must continue to be difficult to find.

RODENT CONTROL

	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Agri- cultural.	(All other including Business premises).	Total
Number of properties in Local Authorities District	9	1738	435	138	2320
Number of properties inspected by Local Authority	9	38	175	14	236
Number of properties (Major) infested with rats (Minor)	1	—	4	3	8
	1	17	31	3	52
Number of properties infested with mice	—	2	—	2	4
Number of properties treated by Local Authority	4	19	—	7	30
Number of notices served for treatment		—	25	1	26

HOUSING

New Council Houses—Suggested Sites

ORLETON.—A Committee of the Council inspected sites suggested for six houses near Orleton Church.

Investigations were made regarding the quality and quantity of water at a Spring in the neighbourhood of the site. The supply was considered to be adequate and a sample of the water was found to be fit for drinking.

LINDRIDGE.—During March, the Committee inspected suggested sites at Menith Wood, Eardiston and Frith Common. Site plans were prepared and submitted to the County Planning Department.

STOKE BLISS.—A Committee of the Council met representatives of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, the owners of a suggested site near to existing Council houses at Stoke Bliss. The site was considered to be very suitable as it adjoins an existing accommodation road, is easy to develop and piped water and electricity are on the spot.

Houses erected during the year (Council Houses)

During the year 19 new Council Houses were completed on sites as follows :

Newnham Bridge	6
Kyreside, Bromyard Road	13

Houses in course of erection (Council Houses)

Kyreside, Bromyard Road	4
Rochford	6
Mamble	8

Two private enterprise houses were completed during the year.

At the end of the year the Council had 194 occupied houses in the district.

Number of houses erected during the year :

1. By the Local Authority	19
2. By the County Council	Nil
3. By other bodies or persons	2

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

(1) a. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	101
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	152
(2) a. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	16
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	85

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the local authority or their officers ... 35

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 1

2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

a. By owners ... 1

b. By Local Authority ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts (Housing only) :

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied (informal) ... 35

2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :

a. By owners ... 2

b. By Local Authority ... Nil

c. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

d. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... Nil

4. Housing Act 1936—Part 4 Overcrowding :

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year...Not known

(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year...Nil

(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year...Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Five applications for Grants in respect of proposed improvements to housing accommodation were received and dealt with during the year.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947

During the year 31 applications to develop were dealt with :—

Applications Approved ... 30

Applications Refused ... 1

Nine applications were in respect of proposed new housing accommodation, six in respect of proposed alterations or improvements to houses and sixteen related to various proposals other than housing.

PLANS APPROVED (Town and Country Planning Act and Building Byelaws)

In connection with housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Other buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDINGS

Five Building Licences were issued by my Department during the year covering works in the district to the value of £11,686.

Only one Licence was issued directly by the Ministry which related to works of the value of £850.

FOOD

Inspections of food-preparing premises in the district were made during the year. On the whole these premises were found to be well kept and there was generally a tendency towards further improvement.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Since early in 1940, when control of meat supplies came into operation, supplies of meat have been brought into the district from a Central Abattoir. Private slaughterhouses in the district have been used for emergency slaughter only.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, SECTION 14

Four applications for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream were received during the year; three applications were approved.

During the course of my inspections under this heading, I was surprised to find that a firm of repute had supplied ice cream to two retail traders whose premises were not registered. Immediate informal action was taken and the firm concerned apologised for the lapse and gave an undertaking, that in future, notice would be sent to my Department of all prospective customers and gave an assurance that all the firm's representatives had received appropriate instructions.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

Two applications for Dealers Licences to sell by retail Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk were approved.

One case of contravention of the Regulations was dealt with.

PARTICULARS OF OTHER SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH

New Drainage provided : (Excluding New Houses).

(a) To sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) To cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of obstructed or defective drains dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of defective lavatories, sinks, etc., dealt with	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of additional W.C.s installed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Number of defective water services dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Defects to sewers remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nuisances arising from defective cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Visits in connection with Tenbury water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	356
Visits in connection with private water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Visits in connection with Hop-pickers accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Number of letters sent during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	719

One exceptionally dirty and verminous dwelling-house was dealt with during the year; the house was also used for the sale of groceries. The matter was remedied following the service of formal notices.

HOP-PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION

Apart from a few minor defects or deficiencies, the accommodation provided for hop-pickers was reasonably satisfactory. The intended visit of one of the Medical Officers of the Ministry of Health did not take place.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council, fellow Officers and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. PARKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer.

